



# **Armed Forces College of Medicine AFCM**



# **Treatment of Hyperlipidemia**

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# INTENDED LEARNING OBJECTIVES (ILO)



**By the end of this lecture the student will be able to:**

- 1-** Discuss different drugs and diseases causing hyperlipidemias
- 2-** List management of hyperlipidemia
- 3-** Compare the mechanism of action , the adverse effects and drug interaction of statins and fibrates
- 4-** Relate the therapeutic uses of statins and fibrates to their clinical applications

**A patient 45 years old came to the doctor complaining of attacks of severe chest pain radiating to the left shoulder .**



- On examination : **yellowish fatty deposits** were found on elbow ,knees, tendons, with history that they appeared many years ago. In addition to their appearance around the eyelids and on cornea. He gave a history that this condition had occurred before and was diagnosed as **stable angina** also he is **hypertensive** and on **Atenolol** and that his father was complaining of the same condition.
- Laboratory investigations revealed **serum cholesterol** 380 mg/dl and **LDL** 222 mg/dl.
- He was diagnosed as a case of stable angina with familial hypercholesterolemia.

# Overview



- Coronary heart disease (CHD) is the leading cause of death worldwide.
- CHD is correlated with elevated levels of **low-density** lipoprotein **cholesterol** (**LDL-C**; “**bad**” **cholesterol**) and **triglycerides** and low levels of **high-density** lipoprotein cholesterol (**HDL-C**; “**good**” **cholesterol**”).
- Other risk factors for CHD include:  
cigarette smoking, hypertension, obesity, and diabetes.
- Cholesterol levels may be elevated due to lifestyle

# Overview



## Hyperlipidemias can also result from:

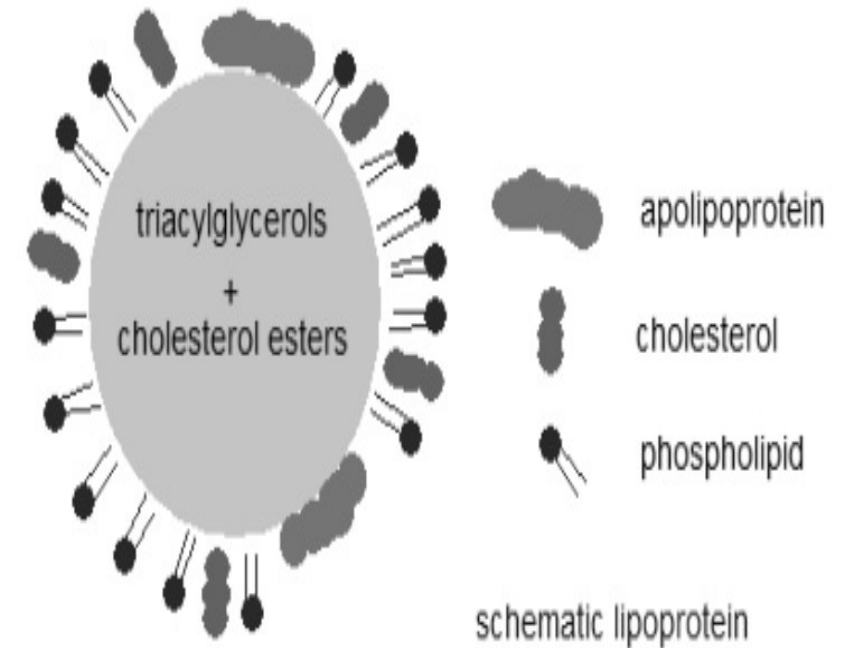
1. Primary: an inherited defect in lipoprotein metabolism  
(**Genetic**)
2. **life style factors** as **lack of exercise or diet containing excess saturated fats**, more commonly, from a combination of **Both**
3. **Secondary:**
  - a- **Diseases** : DM, hypothyroidism, nephrotic syndrome, obesity.

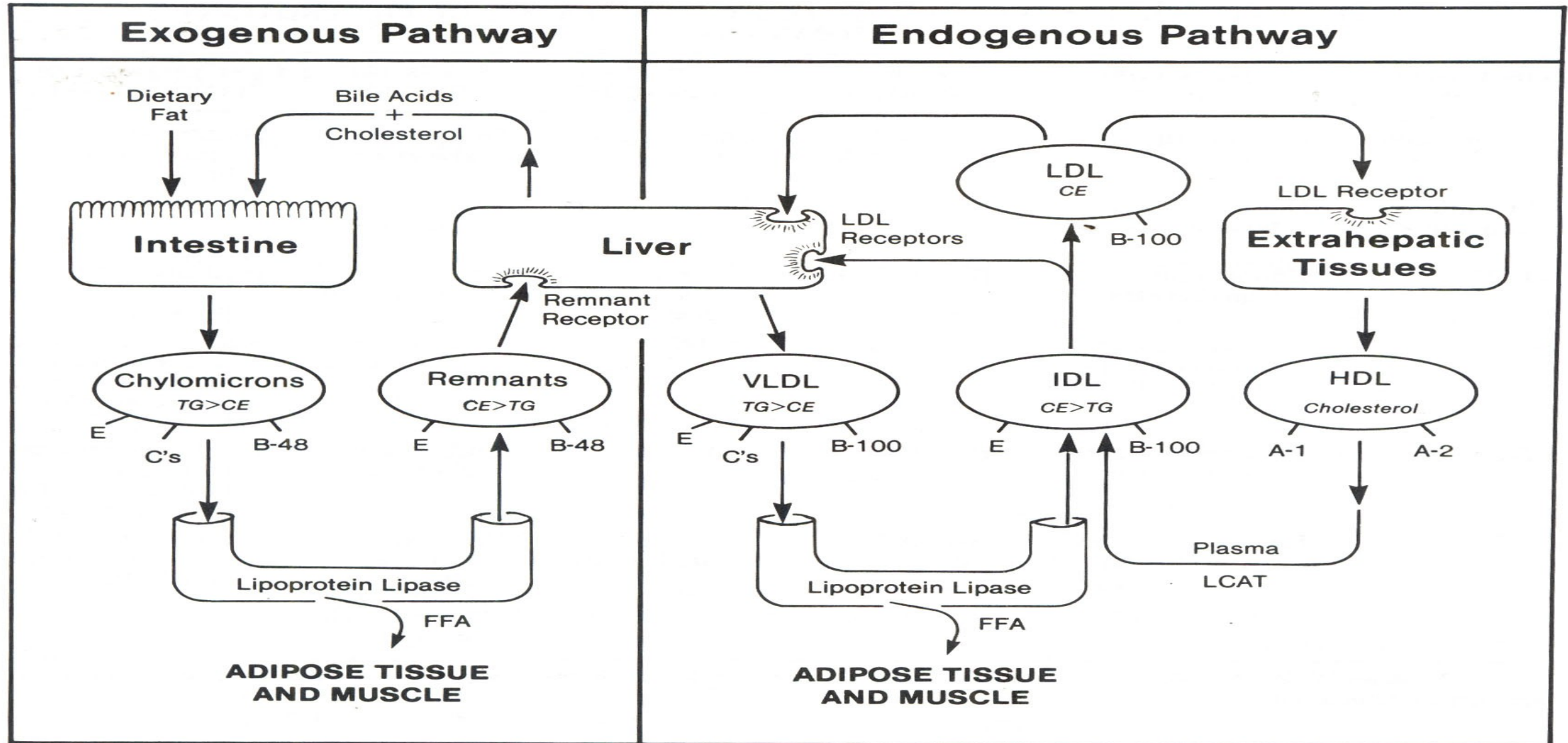
# Physiological Considerations:



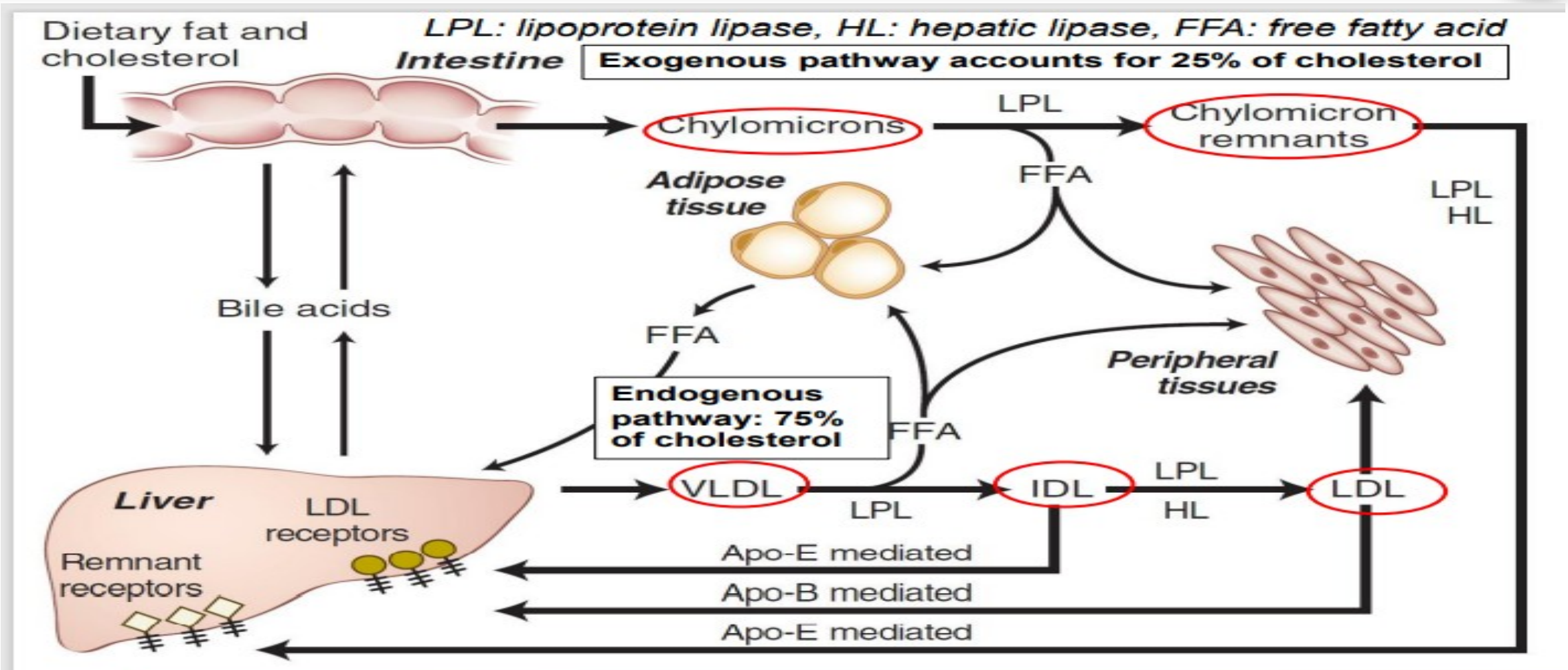
## 1. Plasma lipoproteins

consist of central core of Lipids (triglycerides and cholesterol esters) encased in phospholipids, free cholesterol and proteins (called apolipoproteins).









# MANAGEMENT OF HYPERLIPIDEMIAS



## I. Diet

1. Avoid saturated fatty acids (animal fats).

2. Give unsaturated fatty acids (plant fats), e.g. olive oil, sunflower oil:

Polyunsaturated FAs increase conversion of free cholesterol (metabolically active) to cholesterol ester (inactive) → hepatic free cholesterol → compensatory → LDL receptors → uptake of LDL → plasma LDL

3. Regular fish oil in diet: contain

## II. Exercise

4. Vitamins E & C (antioxidants).  
→ HDL

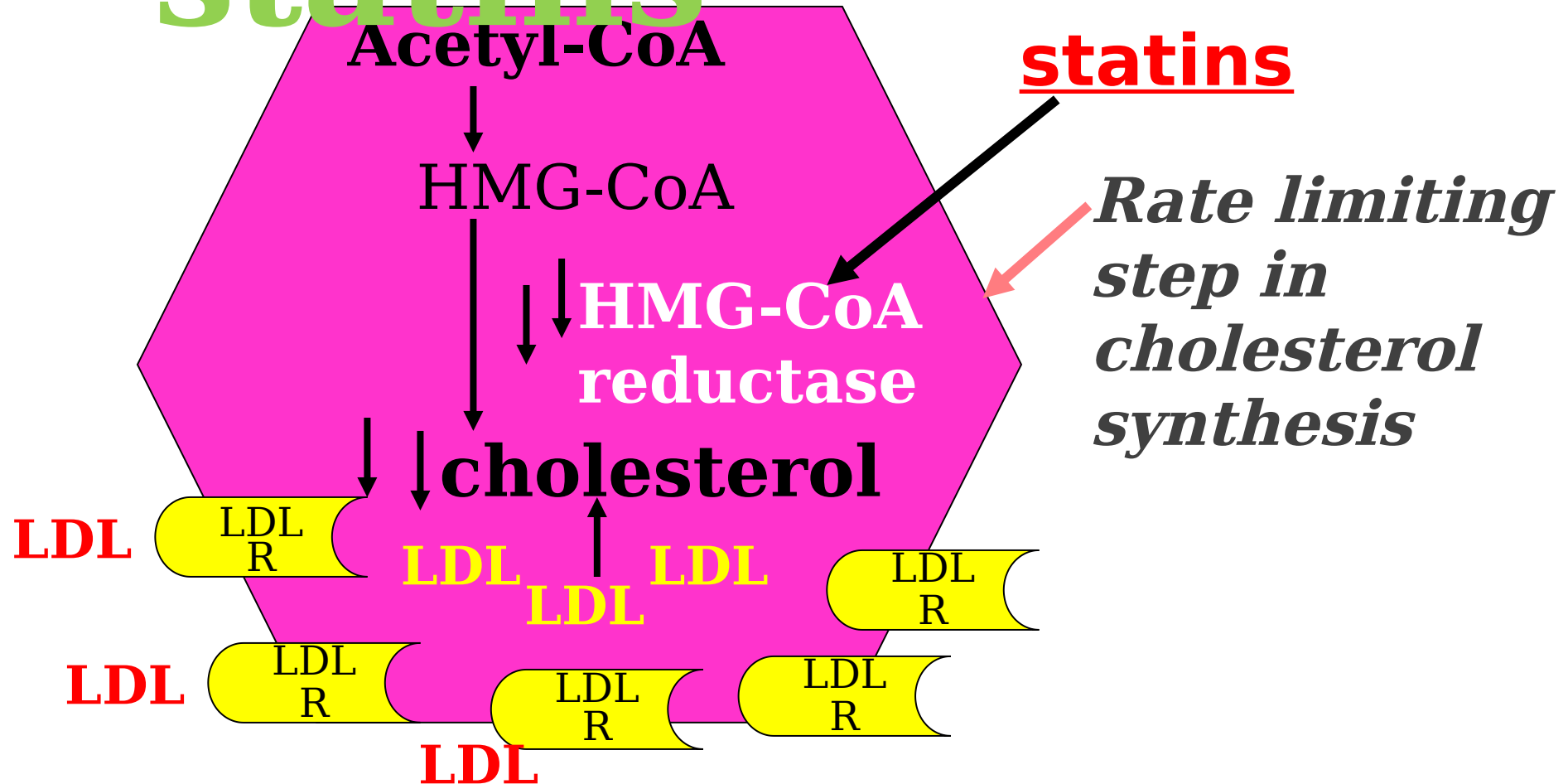
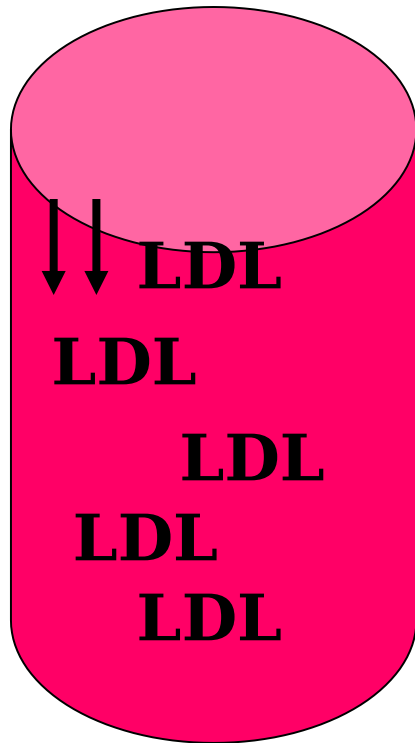
→ insulin sensitivity delaying maturity-onset DM.

## III. Drug Therapy

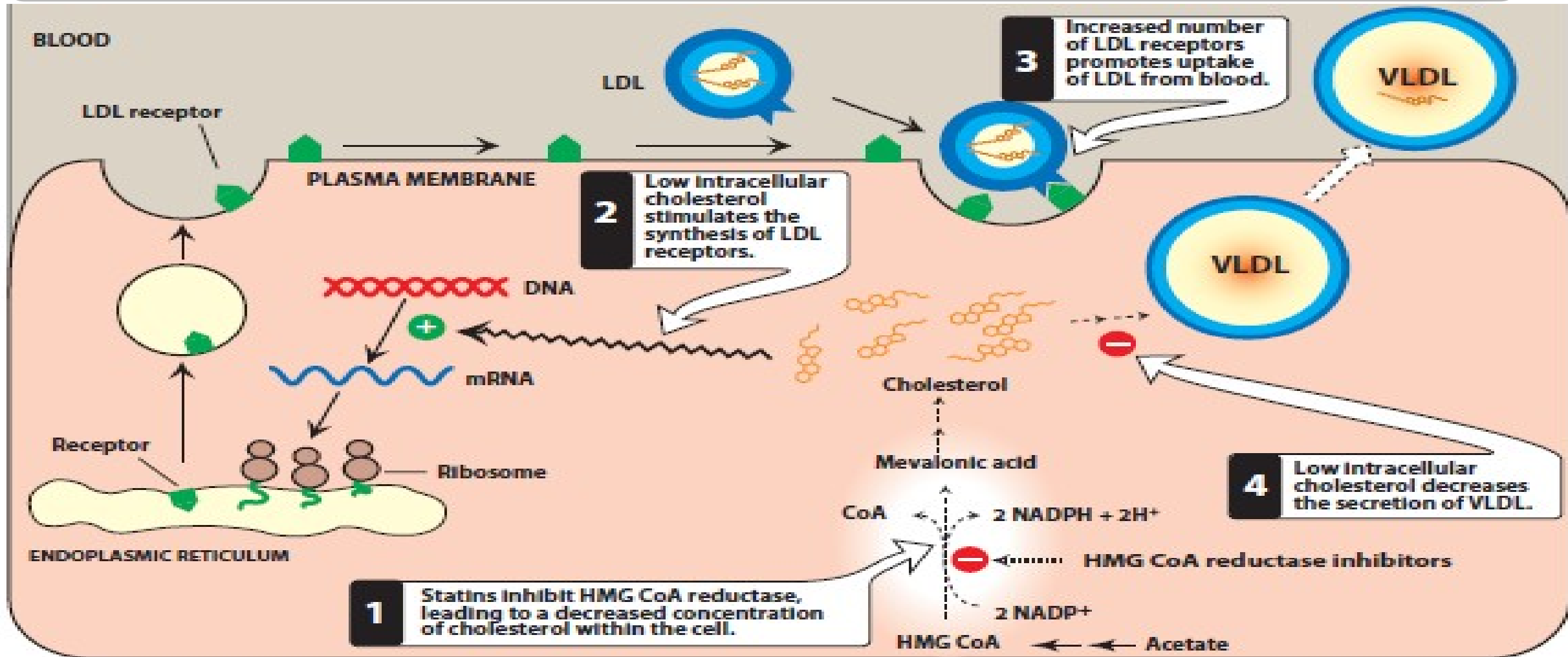
Used when dietary and risk factor management fails.

# I-

## MECHANISM statins



# MECHANISM



Whalen, K., Finkel, R., & Panavelil, T. A. (2018) Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology (7th edition.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer



# Mechanism of action:

a. Statins act by competitively **inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase**

b. HMG-CoA reductase is the rate-controlling enzyme of the mevalonate pathway, the metabolic pathway that produces cholesterol in the liver

Depletion of intracellular cholesterol → **Number of LDL receptors on liver cells**

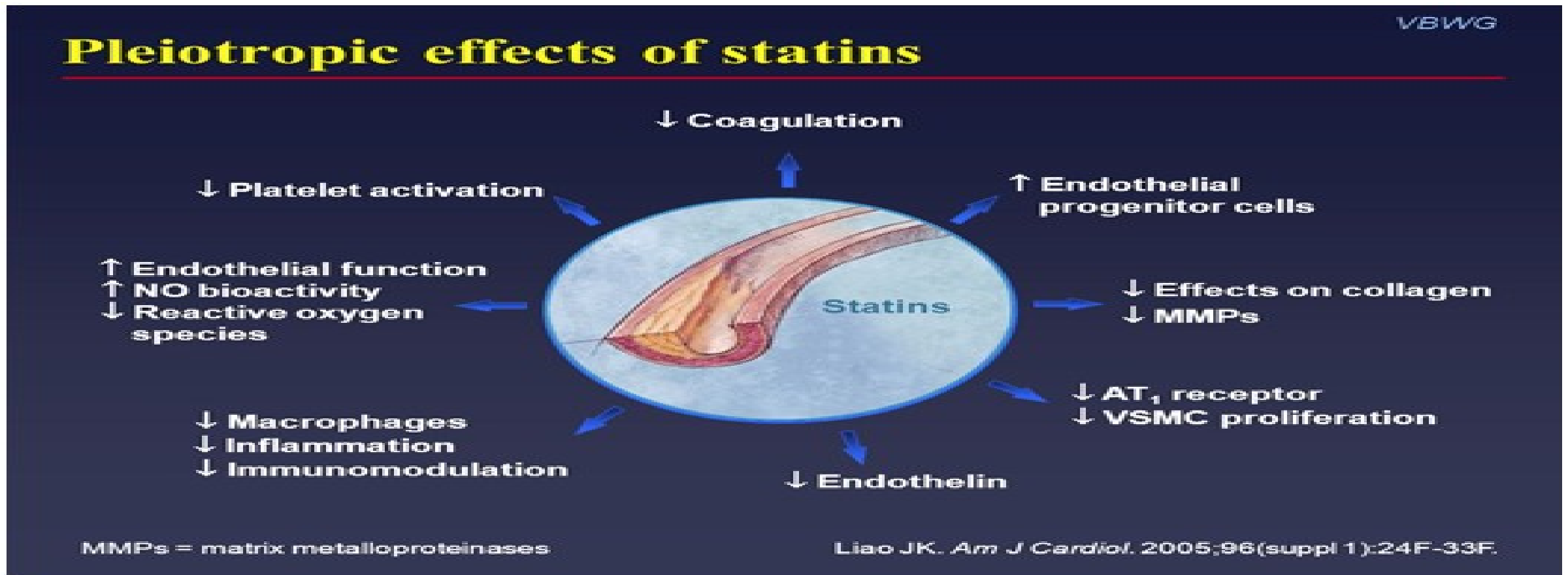
1. **LDL cholesterol in plasma**

2. **Plasma HDL levels.**

3. **Plasma triglycerides**

e-Some actions of statins are unrelated, or indirectly related, to their effect on plasma lipid “**Pleiotropic effects**”.

Such actions include: improved endothelial function, reduced vascular inflammation, reduced platelet



# Pharmacokinetics:



a. Absorbed orally.

b. . Half-lives range variable (1-3 hours) so All statins are taken orally at bedtime because of diurnal rhythm of cholesterol synthesis, except **atorvastatin**, **Rosuvastatin** because of their long half-life (14, 19, 12 hours respectively).

c. First pass effect, so primary action on liver.

**Lovastatin** and **simvastatin** are hydrolyzed to the active drug. The remaining statins are administered in their active form

# Uses:



e.g:

Because these agents undergo a marked first-pass extraction by the liver, their dominant effect is on that organ

- Pitavastatin
- Atorvastatin
- Rosuvastatin
- Lovastatin
- Simvastatin
- Pravastatin
- Fluvastatin

Familial **or non** *hypercholesterolemia*

Initiate reductase inhibitor therapy immediately after **acute coronary syndromes**, regardless of lipid levels.



# Side effects



- **1-Hepatotoxicity: often intermittent**

↑ ↑ **serum transaminases** up to three times  
normal

**.2-Myopathy & myositis: Besides muscle pain,  
the other major symptom of rhabdomyolysis is  
dark, red, or cola colored urine)**

# Interactions:



1-Potentiate the action of **oral anticoagulant** (by effect on platelet function) and antidiabetic drugs (**displacement from plasma protein binding sites**).

2- **Most** of the statins are metabolized through the cytochrome P450 (CYP) metabolic pathway; and **inhibitors** of this enzyme

3- In contrast, **pravastatin** (Pravachol) and **rosuvastatin** (Crestor) **do not** depend on the CYP450 pathway.

## Contra-indications:

**pregnancy and lactation**

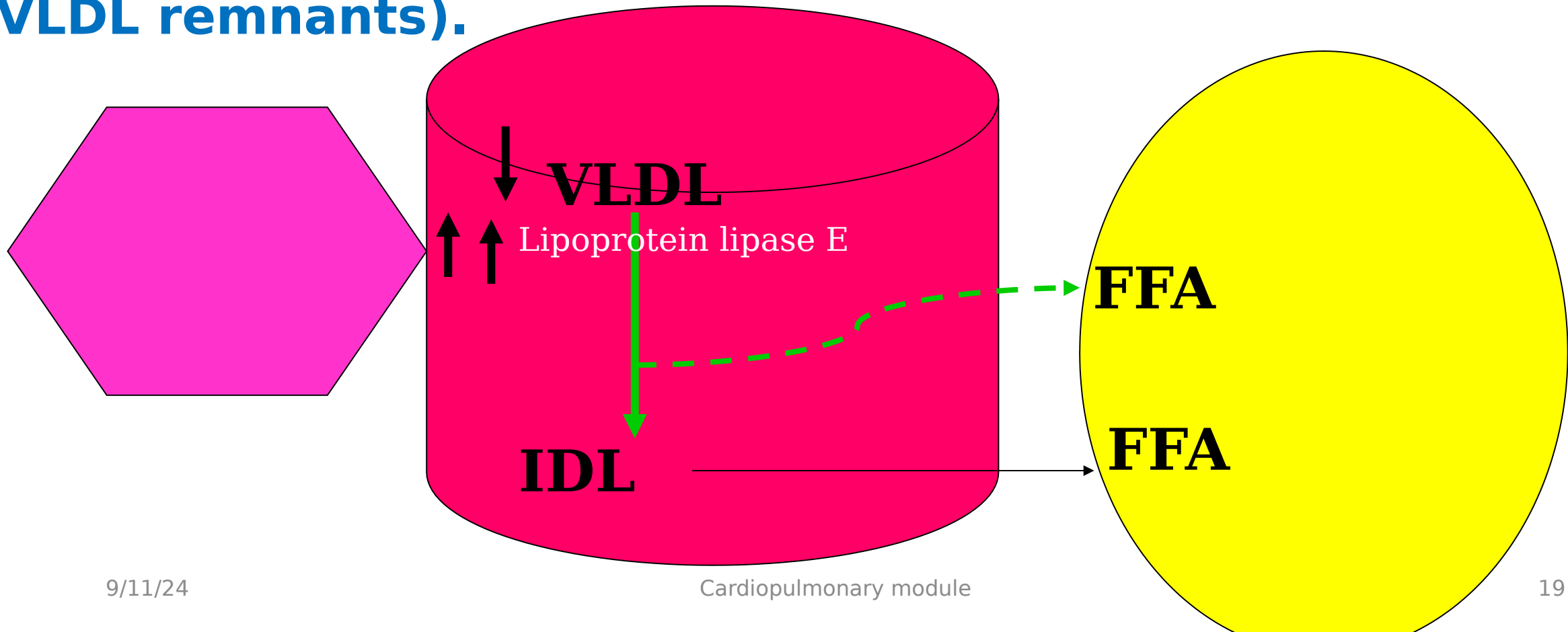
(cholesterol is important for normal development, and it is possible that statins could cause serious problems).

# II-Fibrates



## ***MECHANISM***

**Increased catabolism of serum TG-rich proteins (VLDL and VLDL remnants).**



## Mechanism of action:

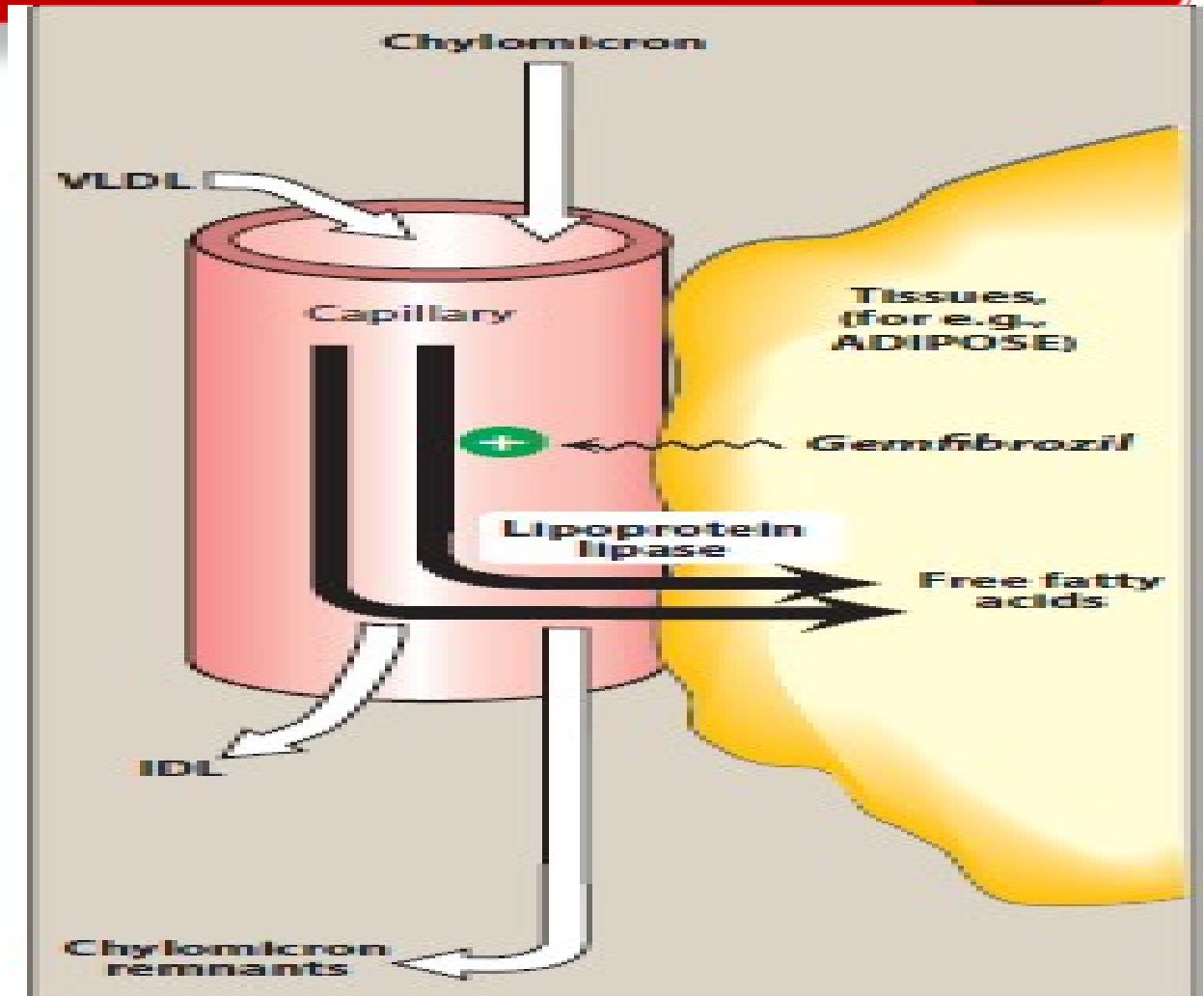


a. Fibrates are **agonists** for **peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  (PPAR  $\alpha$ )** in muscle, liver, and other tissues.

b. Activation of PPAR- $\alpha$  signaling results in: **transcriptionally up-regulation** of LPL, apo A-I and apo A-II.

**-Increased lipoprotein lipase**

**activity  $\rightarrow \uparrow$  hydrolysis of TG  $\rightarrow$**



Whalen, K., Finkel, R., & Panavelil, T. A. (2018) Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology (7th edition.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer

# Pharmacokinetics:



1. *Gemfibrozil* and *fenofibrate* are **completely absorbed** after **oral** administration distribute widely and improved when taken with food, but ***Fenofibrate* is more effective** than *gemfibrozil* in lowering triglyceride levels.
2. bound to **albumin**.
3. **Fenofibrate** is a **prodrug**, which is converted to the active fenofibric acid.
4. Fibrates are **metabolized in the kidney** and should be avoided or **used with caution in patients with kidney disease** , excreted in the urine.
5. **Pemafibrate** is a selective PPAR- $\alpha$  modulator Selective peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  modulators (SPPARM- $\alpha$ ), a newer, more potent fibrate.

## Uses:



**e.g:**

- **Fenofibrate**
- **Gemfibrozil.**
- **Pemafibrate**

**Familial**

***Hypertriglyceridemia***

***Mixed***

**Non**

***hyperlipidemia.***

# Side effects



1. **GI upset** (**most common**).
2. **Cholesterol gall stone formation** (since fibrates increase the **biliary cholesterol excretion**),  
cholecystitis.
3. **Myopathy and myositis** → **elevated CK** especially when combined with statins.
4. **hepatotoxic** ( elevated liver enzymes).

# Interactions:



## Potentiate the action of

1. oral anticoagulant (decrease fibrinogen)
  2. antidiabetic drugs
- (displacement from plasma protein binding sites also, it stimulates  $\beta$ -oxidation in skeletal muscles improving glucose metabolism)

## Contra-indications:

- a. Pregnancy and lactation.
- b. Gall-bladder disease.
- c. Hepatic and renal dysfunction.



# SUGGESTED TEXTBOOKS



- 1- Whalen, K., Finkel, R., & Panavelil, T. A. (2018) Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology (7th edition.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer
  
- 2- Katzung BG, Trevor AJ. (2018). Basic & Clinical Pharmacology (14<sup>th</sup> edition) New York: McGraw-Hill Medical.



**THANK  
YOU**